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The Colonial Conference.

IN referring to Sir Frederick Pollock's recently issued memorandum regarding a permanent secretariat for the Colonial Conference, The Times of London expresses the opinion that the loose organization of the empire, if it is to continue at all, must continue on the basis of a partnership, not on the basis of a trustee dealing with minors. A partnership involves common consultation and common decision—in other words, some form of common council.

Sir Charles Tupper in writing to The London Morning Post takes issue with Sir Frederick's views as to the desirability of a Parliamentary Federation. Rather, he advocates the securing of continuity in the proceedings of the Colonial Conference by having the High Commissioners of the colonies sworn as Privy Councillors. Thus they would be brought into most confidential communication with the Imperial Government on all questions affecting the outlying portions of the Empire, and their usefulness would be increased by their being present at the meetings of the Imperial Conference. Sir Charles suggests that additional weight would be given the High Commissioners if that office were made a department of the Cabinet. He concludes that he fails to see any practical result from a secretariat and staff discharging duties which could better be performed at the Colonial Office.

More C.P.R. Empresses.

IT is announced that the C.P.R.'s Atlantic steamships the Empress of Ireland and the Empress of Britain, will be transferred to the Orient service, to take the place of the Empress of China and the Empress of Japan. The latter will be put on the Australia and New Zealand route, and two large new steamers are to be built for the Atlantic service.

Britain to Strike Blow at Usurers.

ACCORDING to a recent London despatch, Attorney-General Sir John Lawson Walton has stated in the House that the Lord Chancellor has under consideration the introduction of legislation abolishing imprisonment for debt.

Mr. Donald Maclean, who drew this intimation from the Attorney-General, stated that within the last ten years 82,500 persons have been imprisoned for non-compliance with court orders for payment. "The present system, according to the testimony of nearly all the county court Judges," he said "is the chief weapon in the hands of firms and persons who foster among the working classes a pernicious system of false credit, and whose main business is to tempt people of small means to borrow money at ruinous rates of interest, or to purchase articles they cannot afford."

Ticket Scalping.

THE public, more perhaps than the railroads, would have suffered had Parliament sanctioned the bill to legalize ticket scalping. Scalpers are being more and more excluded from the states and cities of the neighbouring republic, experience showing that their trade consists largely in the issuing of bogus and fraudulently changed tickets. Ordinarily the forgery is detected by the train officials, and the luckless passenger has a second fare to pay before he is allowed to continue his journey.

Provincial Subsidies.

A "final and unalterable settlement" of the scale of payments from the Dominion to the Provinces is to be asked by the Federal Government from the Imperial Parliament. Sir Wilfrid Laurier gave notice last week of an